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SECRET

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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FORM NO. 30-4
SEP 1947

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A/DD (Administration)

DATE: 16 July 1951

FROM : Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT:

1. The attached clipping is the matter I discussed with you this morning. I think great care should be exercised by us to make certain that no action is recommended which would in any way cut down the authorities given the Director under Section 102(c) of the National Security Act of 1947 authorizing the Director to terminate the employment of any employee in the interest of the United States.

2. While this fundamental authority cannot be repealed by Executive action, nevertheless, it can be severely limited by appeals procedure and other regulations. For this reason, I believe that CIA should be represented on any group in the NSC which undertakes to study this problem.



25X1

Walter L. Pforzheimer

OGC/WLP:blc

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Orig. to addressee

*Walter
Edwards has
been invited to NSC
group which will study
this question*
19 June

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NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE
15 July 1951

Truman Calls for a New Method In Security Cases, Now 'Acute'

Asks Council to Work Out Uniform System to Do Away With Risks and Protect Individuals

By James M. Minifie

WASHINGTON, July 14.—President Truman expressed today his "serious concern" at lack of uniform standards and procedures for dealing with poor security risks among actual and potential government employees, and asked the National Security Council to study the matter and come up with recommendations.

The problem was now "so acute," the President said in a letter to James S. Lay jr., executive secretary of the council, that preliminary consideration should be given to it without waiting for the Nimitz Commission on Internal Security and Individual Rights to start work. The commission has been held up by refusal of the Senate Judiciary Committee to report legislation which would exempt its members and staff from the conflict-of-interest statutes.

Mr. Truman wrote: "We must never forget that the fundamental purpose of our government is to protect the rights of individual citizens, and one of the highest obligations of the government is to see that those rights are protected in its own operations."

Mr. Truman wrote that the provisions of law authorizing departmental heads to discharge governmental employees, or to refuse employment to applicants, on the grounds that they are poor security risks "must be administered with the utmost wisdom and courage" if they were to "protect the security of the government without unduly infringing on the rights of individuals."

The President found that there were no uniform standards or procedures followed in the different departments, nor was there any provision for review at a central point.

He called on the National Security Council, with the participation of the Civil Service Commission, "to make an investigation of the way this program is being administered, and to advise me what changes are believed to be required. In particular, I should like consideration given to whether provision should be made for uniform standards and procedures and for central review of the decisions made in the various departments."

The White House move coincided
(Continued on page 14, column 1)

with a renewed drive on Capitol Hill to investigate security risks within the government, and in particular possible Communist activity within the State Department, following the suspension of an un-stated number of department officials pending new security hearings.

Reps. Harold H. Velde, R., Ill., and Bernard W. Kearney, R., N. Y., both members of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, called for full-scale investigations of the State Department.

Rep. Velde said he would insist that "minor investigations" be "temporarily shelved in favor of complete investigations and hearings in the matter of direct Soviet influence in the present and past Democratic administrations."

Rep. Kearney told reporters that he was "in favor of reopening the investigation of the State Department concerning possible Communist infiltration there."